

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 123869
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 /020 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE 4363

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 123869

FOL RPT LONDON 7511 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS JIDDA
PARIS MAY 12, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS LONDON 07511

USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: YAMANI AND US OIL IMPORT TAX

REF: LONDON 7071

SAUDI ARABIAN OIL MINISTER YAMANI MADE FOLLOWING STATE-
MENTS ON A POSSIBLE US OIL IMPORT TAX DURING BBC INTER-
VIEW ANTICIPATED BY REFTEL. PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED TO BE
AIRED WITHIN A FEW HOURS IN LONDON.

- YAMANI: "THE LEAST I CAN SAY IS THAT THIS WILL WEAKEN
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THE SAUDI ARGUMENT INSIDE OPEC FOR A FREEZE OF OIL PRICE,
OR AT LEAST A REASONABLE INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL
BECAUSE THEN, IF YOU ARE ABLE, OR IF YOU WANT A HIGHER
OIL PRICE WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE IT TO YOUR TREASURY AND
NOT OUR TREASURY. IT'S OUR OIL, SO I THINK THAT'S A
VERY SERIOUS MOVE. ALREADY THE MEMBERS IN THE ORGANIZA-
TION ARE TALKING ABOUT IT AND THEY ARE THINKING LOUDLY

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE."

- QUESTION: "HAVE YOU MADE IT CLEAR TO THE US THIS
WILL BE VERY MUCH A SECOND-BEST ALTERNATIVE?"

- YAMANI: "NOT REALLY SO FAR, BUT WE TALKED ABOUT IT IN
SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND OUR POSITION IS KNOWN THAT WE ARE
NOT FOR IT. WE ARE AGAINST IT."

- QUESTION: "IF THE PRESIDENT WAS UNABLE TO GET THE
ENERGY BILL THROUGH, HOWEVER, WOULD YOU PREFER AN IMPORT
TAX RATHER THAN NOTHING?"

- YAMANI: "I REALLY HAVE SOME DOUBTS IF HE CAN FIND HIS
WAY EASILY TO IMPOSE THAT TARIFF WITHOUT A REACTION AND
OBJECTION FROM THE CONGRESS, SO WE DON'T CREATE ANYTHING
RIGHT NOW. " BREWSTER
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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